

Superior Court of California County of Orange



Collaborative Courts 2012 Annual Report

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Introduction

Collaborative court programs are specialized court tracks that combine judicial supervision with rigorously monitored rehabilitation services. Their focus is on problem-solving — accomplished by integrated treatment and social services, strict oversight and accountability, a team approach to decision-making, and frequent interaction between the judicial officer and the participants. Collaborative courts have been shown to increase public safety and to save money by stopping the revolving door of incarceration and re-arrest for many offenders. They also provide profound human and social benefits.

The Orange County Collaborative Courts, which began in 1995 with one Drug Court at the Central Justice Center, have expanded to include a variety of programs based on the Drug Court model at five Justice Centers. In the pages which follow, the accomplishments during 2012 of Orange County's nationally-recognized Collaborative Courts are recounted. The substantial monetary and social benefits resulting from these programs are a tribute to the unwavering support of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and to the commitment and hard work of the staff from the partnering agencies that comprise the Collaborative Courts.



Our national leaders agree:

"Drug courts provide a critical service to our Nation's families and communities by offering viable treatment options for individuals struggling with substance abuse, while reducing the burden on the Nation's courts, jails, and prisons. Drug courts are a key element of a holistic approach for reducing the drug abuse and its consequences in the Nation."

from a 2011 interview with Gil Kerlikowske,
Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy
(the federal "Drug Czar")

"[Drug court] serves as an alternative to traditional probation and incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders – and as part of a commonsense approach to protecting public safety, improving our streets and neighborhoods, deterring crime, and encouraging sobriety through education and assistance."

from a 2012 speech by US Attorney General Eric Holder

"Drug courts are an effective and cost-efficient way to help non-violent drug offenders commit to a rigorous drug treatment program in lieu of prison. By leveraging the coercive power of the criminal justice system, drug courts can alter the behavior of non-violent, low-level drug offenders through a combination of judicial supervision, case management, mandatory drug testing, and treatment to ensure abstinence from drugs."

from President George W. Bush, *A Blueprint for New Beginnings:
A Responsible Budget for America's Priorities* (2001)

"Drug courts cut crime. More importantly, drug courts save lives."

from a 1998 radio address by President William Clinton

CHAPTER 1 Drug Court

Located at four justice centers, the adult Drug Court program works with seriously addicted offenders to help them achieve sobriety and rebuild their lives. The voluntary, four-phase program is a collaboration among the Court, the Probation Department, the Orange County Health Care Agency, the offices of the Public Defender and the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, and other local law enforcement agencies. The program includes intensive probation supervision, individual and group counseling, regular court appearances, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, and residential treatment or residence in a "sober living" facility as necessary.



Hon. Matthew Anderson has presided over Drug Court since 2000

Defendants admitted into the Drug Court program work with their treatment care coordinator and Probation Officer to develop and follow a life plan, remain clean and sober, and have consistent attendance at all court hearings, probation meetings and counseling appointments. In order to complete the program, they must also obtain suitable housing, complete their education if needed by obtaining a high school diploma or GED, and find stable employment. Team members oversee and assist their progress and, at the regular team meetings, discuss areas of concern and make recommendations to the judicial officer.

During their appearances in court, participants are rewarded with incentives for program compliance or given sanctions for non-compliance. Phase advancements and graduations include written self-evaluations by the participants, which they read aloud in court. At these times, the people in the audience are able to understand clearly the dramatic life changes the program participants are undergoing.

Funding for Drug Court comes from several sources. The Orange County Board of Supervisors approves annual budget allocations for the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, and the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender, all of which allocate personnel who are essential to the success of the program. Additional funding is received from the State of California. Previously distributed as annual grant funding through the Drug Court Partnership, the Comprehensive Drug Court Initiative, and the Dependency Drug Court program, the funding is now received as a direct appropriation from the State to the County, administered by the Health Care Agency.

Drug Court, continued

Funding for treatment and other participant services also comes from grant awards. A grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance provided \$100,000 during the year to enhance services for female abusers of methamphetamine by helping to cover the costs of substance abuse therapists, residential treatment, and drug and alcohol testing. A fiscal year grant of \$36,116 was received from the California Administrative Office of the Courts for drug and alcohol testing, bus passes for transportation to appointments and court appearances, incentive items, and training for Drug Court team members.

The Collaborative Courts Foundation, a non-profit agency founded by Executive Director Kathy Burnham, obtains grant funding and donations to provide vital support to the participants in Drug Court and the other treatment court programs — including help in accessing restorative dental care, emergency medical care, assistance with educational and personal needs, and incentives for program participants who are achieving their program goals. Each year, the Foundation hosts seminars to provide education in areas such as financial literacy, employment skills, job searches, and self-improvement.

At the start of 2012, there were **354** participants in the Drug Court program countywide. During the year, **597** defendants were evaluated for admission, **214** of whom were admitted into the program; **1** participant was transferred to another treatment Court program which better suited his needs; and a total of **132** participants were terminated from the program, **82** of them because of program non-compliance. A total of **53** program participants successfully graduated during the year. As of December 31, 2012, there were **382** participants in the Drug Court program.

Since its inception in 1995, the Orange County Drug Court has admitted **4,385** participants and, as of December 31, 2012, **1,828** participants had graduated from the program. As set forth in more detail on the following pages, the recidivism rate for Drug Court graduates, three years after graduation, is **28.9%** for any crime, compared with a recidivism rate for comparable non-participants of **74%**. In 2012, **6** drug-free babies were born to program participants, bringing the program total since inception to **136** babies born free of addiction.



Drug Court Judicial Officers 1995-2012

Hon. David McEachen
Hon. David Velasquez
Hon. Ronald Kreber
Hon. Erick Larsh
Hon. Carlton Biggs
Hon. Glenda Sanders
Hon. Matthew Anderson

Hon. Gerald Johnston
Hon. Allen Stone
Hon. Michael McCartin
Hon. Mary Fingal Schulte
Hon. Geoffrey Glass
Hon. Ronald Klar
Hon. Wendy Lindley

Hon. David Thompson
Hon. Peter Polos
Hon. Jamoa Moberly
Hon. Linda Marks
Hon. Gail Andler
Hon. James Odriozola
Hon. Michael Cassidy

Drug Court - Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Drug Court is the reduction in the rate of recidivism, or re-arrest, for graduates of the program. Each year, the arrest records of the Drug Court graduates are reviewed and any arrest within three years of their completion of the program is noted. **Drug Court graduates have a recidivism rate of 28.9% for any crime.**

In contrast, for a 2007 study of Drug Court at the West Justice Center*, the arrest records of a group of 1,685 defendants who were eligible for but did not participate in Drug Court programs in California were reviewed three years after the date of their program eligibility. It was found that **this control group had a recidivism rate of 74% for any crime.**

Significant Cost Savings

The alternative sentence of Drug Court saves the cost of housing the defendant in the County jail where, as a result of AB109 realignment, both jail time and state prison time would be served. This cost savings is calculated only for those who have graduated during the year, and any jail days served as in-program sanctions are subtracted from the total that were avoided as a result of being sentenced to Drug Court. The cost of a jail bed day is set at \$116.21, which is an average of the 2010 costs at the five County jail facilities.

In 2012, the Drug Court program **avoided 19,502 jail and prison bed days** which were stayed pending graduation, which translates to **a cost savings of \$2,266,327**. Since inception, the Drug Court program has saved more than **\$37,118,600** in jail and prison bed costs.

The time that would have otherwise been served, and hence the cost savings, cannot be determined with complete certainty. This is because, if Drug Court were not ordered, a split sentence could have been ordered which would include both jail time and mandatory supervision, and the time in custody would be subject to reduction for good time / work time credits.

Separately, a cost study by the Administrative Office of the Courts** which tracked and valued the time of each person involved with selected Drug Court programs in California, including those at the Central Justice Center and Harbor Justice Center, found that both programs yielded a net cost savings compared with processing the offenders through "business as usual", and noted that **every dollar invested in the Drug Court program at the Central Justice Center resulted in a net benefit of \$7.30.**

* California Drug Courts: Costs and Benefits; Phase II, Piloting the DC-SET, Superior Court of Orange County, West Orange Drug Court Site-Specific Report; Shannon M. Carey, Ph.D., et al., October 2007

** California Drug Courts: A Methodology for Determining Costs and Benefits; Phase II: Testing the Methodology, Final Report submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts; Shannon M. Carey, Ph.D., et al., April 2005, at p.31. The full report is available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/collab/documents/drug_court_phase_II.pdf

Drug Court - Results and Benefits, continued

Recidivism Data for Participants, Three Years after Graduation						
Justice Center	Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
total graduates	585	439	328	189	1541	100%
re-arrested, any charge	185	119	97	45	446	28.9%
re-arrested, any charge	31.6%	27.1%	29.6%	23.8%		
convicted, any charge	172	108	85	44	409	26.5%
re-arrested, substance abuse	152	94	80	33	359	23.3%
re-arrested, substance abuse	25.9%	21.4%	24.4%	17.5%		

Drug-Free Babies

Drug-addicted babies are a healthcare nightmare. The costs of their initial hospitalization and other specialized care can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars, and there are likely to be significant, ongoing medical and socialization challenges as they grow up.* Special perinatal training and program management are offered to Drug Court participants to ensure that pregnant mothers deliver drug-free babies — another important measure of the program’s success, both in human and in economic terms.

During 2012, **6 drug-free babies** were born to women participating in Drug Court, bringing the cumulative total to **136** drug-free babies born since the inception of the program.

Other Program Benefits

Community service hours are an essential component of the Drug Court program. Community service is utilized as both a sanction when participants are not in compliance with the program and as a productive use of time for those participants who are not working or going to school. Participants performed **1,026 hours of community service** in 2012.

During the year, **53** participants graduated from the Drug Court program, free of addiction and employed or pursuing educational goals. Substantial social and economic benefits result when drug-addicted offenders, who are often jobless and homeless, are transformed into responsible, tax-paying members of society — though these benefits may be hard to quantify. Similarly clear but difficult to value with precision are the future costs to crime victims which are avoided, and the enhancements to the quality of life of the community that are gained by helping drug-addicted offenders to transform their lives.

* see, e.g., Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Drug Court Clearinghouse FAQ Fact Sheet, November 10, 2004 (<http://www1.spa.american.edu/justice/documents/1995.pdf>)

DRUG COURT					
2012 Program Totals					
Justice Center	Central	Harbor	North	West	total
active as of 12/31/2011	148	72	90	44	354
defendants evaluated for admission into program	153	222	134	88	597
admitted during 2012	84	52	52	26	214
transferred from another Drug Court program	0	2	0	1	3
terminated — window period	19	9	20	2	50
terminated — extenuating circumstances	0	0	0	0	0
transferred to another Drug Court program location	1	1	0	0	2
transferred to another treatment court program	1	0	0	0	1
terminated — program non-compliance	47	10	19	6	82
graduated	20	10	6	17	53
active as of 12/31/2012	143	97	96	46	382
drug-free babies born during the program	5	1	0	0	6
jail bed days saved	3,285	1,206	1,789	4,259	10,539
prison bed days saved	1,270	3,653	0	4,040	8,963



“My family and friends had given up on me. But most of all I had given up on myself. I knew I needed help but I didn’t know where to find it. ... I gave my whole self to this program and it has changed my life.”

from a participant’s 2012 graduation speech

DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

2012 Admissions

Justice Center		Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
admissions		84	52	52	26	214	100%
gender	female	34	17	20	11	82	38%
	male	50	35	32	15	132	62%
age	18 - 21 years	13	8	9	3	33	15%
	22 - 30 years	34	35	22	14	105	49%
	31 - 40 years	18	4	11	3	36	17%
	41 - 50 years	16	5	7	5	33	15%
	51 - 60 years	3	0	3	1	7	3%
race / ethnicity	African-American	4	2	2	0	8	4%
	Asian	1	1	0	2	4	2%
	Caucasian	60	43	32	20	155	72%
	Hispanic	19	4	16	1	40	19%
	Native American	0	0	2	0	2	1%
	other	0	2	0	3	3	1%
education	needs HS / GED	21	9	20	5	55	26%
	has HS / GED	38	18	27	5	88	41%
	some college	18	19	5	5	47	22%
	college degree	7	4	0	0	11	5%
	no information	0	2	0	11	13	6%
marital status	married	12	1	5	0	18	8%
	separated	2	2	5	0	9	4%
	divorced	10	3	4	3	20	9%
	single	60	43	37	12	152	71%
	widowed	0	0	1	0	1	1%
	no information	0	3	0	11	14	7%
parental status	with minor children	20	5	21	0	46	21%
employment	employed	23	27	12	10	72	34%
	unemployed	60	22	40	5	127	59%
	no information	1	3	0	11	15	7%
primary drug	alcohol	3	2	0	0	5	2%
	cocaine	2	0	2	0	4	2%
	heroin	23	21	7	2	53	25%
	marijuana	4	3	4	0	11	5%
	methamphetamine	46	16	33	8	103	48%
	opiates	2	6	2	0	10	5%
	prescription drugs	4	3	3	0	10	5%
	other	0	1	1	16	18	8%

DRUG COURT - Demographic Information							
2012 Terminations							
Justice Center		Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
terminations		47	10	19	6	82	100%
gender	female	20	3	8	2	33	40%
	male	27	7	11	4	49	60%
age	18 - 21 years	10	1	5	2	18	22%
	22 - 30 years	16	8	11	2	37	45%
	31 - 40 years	14	0	1	1	16	20%
	41 - 50 years	4	1	2	1	8	10%
	51 - 60 years	3	0	0	0	3	4%
	over 60 years	0	0	0	0	0	0%
race / ethnicity	African-American	4	0	2	0	6	7%
	Asian	1	0	0	0	1	1%
	Caucasian	26	10	13	5	54	66%
	Hispanic	16	0	4	1	21	26%
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	other	0	0	0	0	0	0%
education	needs HS / GED	10	3	7	3	23	28%
	has HS / GED	21	3	9	1	34	42%
	some college	10	4	3	1	18	22%
	college degree	6	0	0	0	6	8%
	no information	0	0	0	1	1	1%
marital status	married	10	1	2	0	13	16%
	separated	0	0	1	0	1	1%
	divorced	7	0	1	1	9	11%
	single	30	9	15	4	58	71%
	no information	0	0	0	1	1	1%
parental status	with minor children	13	0	8	0	21	26%
employment	employed	8	3	4	3	18	22%
	unemployed	38	6	15	2	61	74%
	unknown	1	1	0	1	3	4%
primary drug	alcohol	2	1	0	0	3	4%
	cocaine	1	0	1	1	3	4%
	heroin	12	6	7	2	27	33%
	marijuana	5	0	1	1	7	9%
	methamphetamine	24	2	9	2	37	45%
	opiates	1	1	0	0	2	2%
	prescription drugs	0	1	0	0	1	1%
	ecstasy	2	0	0	0	2	2%

DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

2012 Graduations

Justice Center		Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
graduations		20	10	6	17	53	100%
gender	female	9	4	3	6	22	42%
	male	11	6	3	11	31	58%
age	18 - 21 years	1	0	0	2	3	6%
	22 - 30 years	12	5	4	6	27	50%
	31 - 40 years	3	2	1	3	9	17%
	41 - 50 years	4	1	1	4	10	19%
	51 - 60 years	0	2	0	2	4	8%
	over 60 years	0	0	0	0	0	0%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Asian	0	0	0	2	2	4%
	Caucasian	12	9	4	11	36	68%
	Hispanic	8	1	2	4	15	28%
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	other	0	0	0	0	0	0%
education (at admission)	needs HS / GED	7	2	1	4	14	26%
	has HS / GED	8	5	4	5	22	42%
	some college	4	1	1	4	10	19%
	college degree	1	2	0	4	7	13%
marital status	married	2	3	2	3	10	19%
	separated	1	0	0	0	1	2%
	divorced	0	3	1	4	8	15%
	single	17	4	2	9	32	60%
	widowed	0	0	1	1	2	4%
parental status	with minor children	10	2	4	5	21	40%
employment (at admission)	employed	5	5	2	7	19	36%
	unemployed	15	5	4	10	34	64%
primary drug	alcohol	0	1	0	0	1	2%
	cocaine	0	1	0	0	1	2%
	heroin	3	1	0	3	7	13%
	marijuana	3	1	0	1	5	9%
	methamphetamine	13	6	6	13	38	72%
	opiates	1	0	0	0	1	2%
	prescription drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0%

Collaborative Court Programs Highlighted at National Conference

Two of Orange County's outstanding collaborative court programs were highlighted in workshop panel discussions at the 2012 annual conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), held in Nashville, TN, from May 30 to June 2, and attended by more than 4,000 people from around the world.

A training on Veterans Courts included Judge Wendy Lindley and the mentor coordinator of the Orange County Combat Veterans Court, who spoke about the importance of providing each program participant with a volunteer mentor who is also a military service veteran. The establishment and maintenance of DUI Courts was the subject of a panel discussion in which one of Health Care Agency's alcohol and drug program supervisors related the best practices that have enabled the DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach to be named an Academy Court by the National Drug Court Institute.

Collaborative Courts Foundation Assists Program Participants

On April 28th, the Collaborative Courts Foundation held an all-day workshop at which females in the treatment court programs received information and guidance about financial and employment matters. The "Women Moving Forward" event was supported by volunteers from Bank of the West, the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and the Orange County Bar Association, and was funded by a grant from the Allergan Foundation.



Judge Wendy Lindley Receives Judicial Council Award

The California Judicial Council selected Hon. Wendy Lindley to receive the 2012 Ronald M. George Award for Judicial Excellence. The designation is a Distinguished Service Award — the highest honor given by the Judicial Council — in recognition of her "extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the administration of justice". Judge Lindley helped to found the County's first Drug Court in 1994, and she has expanded the treatment court model to create mental health courts, Homeless Outreach Court, and the Combat Veterans Court. She is a national leader in the development of cost-effective programs that reduce recidivism and enhance public safety while bringing meaningful change to the lives of offenders.

Bar Associations Honor Collaborative Court Judges

Two judicial officers who preside over Collaborative Court programs were formally recognized by associations of attorneys for their outstanding contributions to the administration of justice. Hon. Wendy S. Lindley was announced as the recipient of the Harmon G. Scoville Award by the Orange County Bar Association. Judge Lindley presides over calendars at the Community Court that include Drug Court, DUI Court, four mental health courts, Combat Veterans Court, and Homeless Outreach Court. Hon. Debra Carrillo, whose calendars at the West Justice Center include DUI Court, received the W. Patrick McCray award from the members of the West Orange County Bar Association.

CHAPTER 2 DUI Court

DUI Court admits second- and third-time DUI offenders, with the goal of helping them to achieve sobriety while reducing the grave dangers that driving under the influence presents to the community. Based on the Drug Court model, the program was designed in 2004 by a committee of stakeholders under the leadership of Hon. Carlton Biggs, and is presently offered at four justice centers. In addition to sobriety, the program emphasizes rebuilding family ties, maintaining employment and a stable living environment, and pursuing educational goals.

The program is a minimum of twelve months in length and includes regular court appearances, substance abuse treatment, intensive probation supervision, individual and group counseling, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, and residential treatment as necessary. Participants are provided with help in accessing ancillary services such as educational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, employment skills training, job searches, medical and dental treatment, housing, child care, and family reunification. The participants are assisted through a collaboration that includes the Superior Court, the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, the offices of the Public Defender and the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and local law enforcement agencies.

In 2012, the DUI Court program was supported by a portion of the Penal Code §23649 alcohol problem assessment fees, and by a portion of the 2011-2012 Substance Abuse Focus Grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts. The ongoing dedication of staff resources to sustain DUI Court is provided by Health Care Agency, the Probation Department, and the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender, through annual budget allocations from the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

The DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach was selected by the National Center for DWI Courts to be an Academy Court for 2011-2013 — a designation which enables the program to continue as one of only four sites in the country serving as a model for the establishment of similar programs in other jurisdictions. On March 14, fifty-one judges and other collaborative justice professionals came from as far away as Hawaii, Minnesota, Georgia and Vermont to observe the program for a day — including attending the team meeting and the court session, and discussing the program with Judge Matthew Anderson and the partnering agency representatives. The visit was the highlight of three days of classes and workshops presented by the National Drug Court Institute.

In 2012, **151** defendants were admitted to DUI Court, and **123** participants successfully completed the program. Since the inception of DUI Court in 2004, **896** participants have graduated from the program.



DUI Court Judicial Officers 2004-2012

Hon. Carlton Biggs
Hon. Matthew Anderson
Hon. Michael Cassidy
Hon. Debra Carrillo

Hon. Douglas Hatchimonji
Hon. Donald Gaffney
Hon. Joe Perez
Hon. Wendy Lindley

DUI Court - Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

During the eight years from the inception of the DUI Court program in 2004 through the end of 2012, of the **896** program graduates, **only 60** have been convicted of a subsequent DUI offense — a **recidivism rate of 6.7%**. In contrast, the California DMV sets forth the results of a long-term recidivism study at p.44 of its 2011 Annual Report, showing that **21%** of second offense drunk drivers and **25%** of third offense drunk drivers in the state were convicted of a subsequent DUI offense within five years.

Significant Cost Savings

A significant benefit of the DUI Court program is the savings to the County of the cost of incarcerating the DUI offenders, who serve their mandated sentences through electronic home confinement. The average cost to house an inmate at one of the five county jail facilities is \$116.21 per day. In 2012, the DUI Court program **saved 25,911 jail bed days**, resulting in a **cost savings of \$3,011,117**. Since its inception, the DUI Court program has saved **135,392** jail bed days, resulting in a total savings of **\$14,313,769**.

Healthy Babies

Graduates of DUI Court can look forward to a new life of sobriety and promise; and if they become parents, it is appropriate that they be able to share that new life with a healthy baby, rather than an infant who suffers from the harmful effects of the mother's substance abuse. During 2012, **2 babies** were born free of drugs or fetal alcohol syndrome to women participating in DUI Court.

Other Program Benefits

Community service hours are an essential component of DUI Court — both as a graduation requirement and as a sanction when participants are not in compliance with the program. During 2012, participants performed **1,412 hours of community service**.

In addition to its direct financial benefit, DUI Court also produces a tremendous savings in human lives by reforming repeat-offense drunk drivers — who are likely, eventually, to cause death or serious injury to themselves or to innocent victims. The value of these avoided costs are not easily calculated, but are clear nonetheless.



"I thank God every day I didn't kill or hurt anyone when I was drinking."

from a participant's 2012 graduation speech

DUI COURT					
2012 Program Totals					
Justice Center	Central	Harbor	North	West	total
active as of 12/31/2011	47	101	50	42	242
defendants evaluated for admission into program	75	248	88	63	474
admitted during 2012	26	56	37	32	151
transferred from another DUI Court program	0	0	0	1	1
terminated — window period	2	8	3	3	16
terminated — extenuating circumstances	0	0	0	0	0
transferred to another DUI Court program	0	1	0	0	1
transferred to another treatment court program	0	0	0	0	0
terminated — program non-compliance	6	11	9	4	30
graduated	26	46	28	23	123
active as of 12/31/2012	41	90	48	45	224
drug-free babies born during program	0	0	1	1	2
jail bed days saved	4,307	8,692	8,700	4,212	25,911
prison bed days saved	0	0	0	0	0

“I’m so grateful to have my life back, to have my sobriety, and to be helping others to recover from addiction.”

from a participant’s 2012 phase advancement speech

DUI COURT - Demographic Information							
2012 Admissions							
Justice Center		Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
admissions		25	57	38	31	151	100%
gender	female	8	20	9	8	45	30%
	male	17	37	29	23	106	70%
age	18 - 21 years	1	3	1	0	5	3%
	22 - 30 years	14	21	16	8	59	40%
	31 - 40 years	6	13	14	8	41	27%
	41 - 50 years	2	16	6	7	31	21%
	51 - 60 years	1	3	0	6	10	7%
	over 60 years	1	1	1	2	5	3%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	6	3	0	9	6%
	Asian	3	4	3	6	16	11%
	Caucasian	10	36	17	18	81	54%
	Hispanic	12	8	13	6	39	26%
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	other	0	3	2	1	6	4%
education	needs HS / GED	2	4	1	2	9	6%
	has HS / GED	11	8	13	10	42	28%
	some college	7	29	16	7	59	39%
	college degree	4	14	4	7	29	19%
	no information	1	2	4	5	12	8%
marital status	single	18	40	25	17	100	66%
	married	4	6	9	6	25	17%
	separated	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	divorced	2	8	1	3	14	26%
	no information	1	3	3	5	12	8%
parental status	with minor children	5	9	15	1	30	20%
employment	employed	15	45	27	16	103	68%
	unemployed	7	10	8	9	34	23%
	no information	3	2	3	6	14	9%

DUI COURT - Demographic Information							
2012 Terminations							
Justice Center		Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
terminations		5	11	7	4	27	100%
gender	female	1	7	3	2	13	48%
	male	4	4	4	2	14	52%
age	18 - 21 years	1	0	1	0	2	7%
	22 - 30 years	3	3	1	1	8	30%
	31 - 40 years	0	5	3	2	10	37%
	41 - 50 years	0	1	1	0	2	7%
	51 - 60 years	1	2	0	1	4	15%
	over 60 years	0	0	1	0	1	4%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	0	1	1	2	7%
	Asian	1	1	0	0	2	7%
	Caucasian	2	7	3	3	15	56%
	Hispanic	2	3	3	0	8	30%
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0%
education	needs HS / GED	0	1	0	0	1	4%
	has HS / GED	4	2	4	1	11	41%
	some college	1	4	1	0	6	22%
	college degree	0	3	2	1	6	22%
	no information	0	1	0	2	3	11%
marital status	divorced	1	2	0	2	5	19%
	married	1	2	0	0	3	11%
	separated	0	1	0	0	1	1%
	single	3	5	7	1	16	60%
	no information	0	1	0	1	2	7%
parental status	with minor children	1	2	1	1	5	19%
employment	employed	2	7	4	1	14	52%
	unemployed	3	3	3	1	10	37%
	unknown	0	1	0	2	3	11%

DUI COURT - Demographic Information

2012 Graduations

Justice Center		Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
graduations		25	46	30	23	124	100%
gender	female	13	14	5	6	38	31%
	male	12	32	25	17	86	69%
age	18 - 21 years	1	2	0	0	3	2%
	22 - 30 years	13	14	12	10	49	40%
	31 - 40 years	5	11	8	4	28	22%
	41 - 50 years	4	11	7	6	28	23%
	51 - 60 years	1	7	2	1	11	9%
	over 60 years	1	1	1	2	5	4%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	2	0	2	4	3%
	Asian	1	0	1	2	4	3%
	Caucasian	13	35	10	11	69	56%
	Hispanic	10	7	18	8	43	35%
	other	1	2	1	0	4	3%
education	needs HS / GED	2	2	6	2	12	10%
(at admission)	has HS / GED	8	10	15	5	38	31%
	some college	10	26	4	10	50	40%
	college degree	4	7	5	2	18	15%
		1	1	0	4	6	5%
marital status	married	3	11	7	5	26	21%
	separated	0	0	5	0	5	4%
	divorced	7	9	3	2	21	17%
	single	14	26	15	13	68	55%
	no information	1	0	0	3	4	3%
parental status	with minor children	5	5	17	5	32	26%
employment	employed	16	37	24	11	88	71%
	unemployed	8	8	6	6	28	23%
	unknown	1	1	0	6	8	6%

CHAPTER 3

Mental Health Courts

Orange County's Mental Health Court programs are all based on the Drug Court model, and all are convened at the Community Court, under the guidance of Hon. Wendy Lindley.

Opportunity Court and Recovery Court

Opportunity Court and Recovery Court, which began during 2002 and 2006 respectively, have evolved to include the same criteria for admission. They are voluntary programs, at least eighteen months in length, for non-violent drug offenders who have been diagnosed with chronic and persistent mental illness. The collaborative teams consist of the judicial officer and representatives from the Health Care Agency's Mental Health Services division, the Probation Department, and the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender.

Participants are served through the Health Care Agency's Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) if they meet the eligibility criteria of that program regarding recent hospitalizations and/or incarcerations; and if ineligible for PACT, participants are served through other sources of treatment. A variety of services are offered through the programs, including mental health and psychiatric care, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, family counseling, and residential treatment if appropriate. In addition to these services, program participants are also provided with referrals to medical care, employment counseling, job skills training, and assistance in accessing government disability benefits and housing.

At the end of 2012, a total of **76 participants** were active in the Opportunity Court and Recovery Court programs.

WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court

The WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court is a voluntary program, at least eighteen months in length, for non-violent offenders who have been diagnosed with chronic and persistent mental illness, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. WIT Court was started in 2006, and is funded through Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act.

The program involves regular court appearances, frequent drug and alcohol testing, meetings with the WIT Court team, and direct access to specialized services. The team consists of the judicial officer, as well as representatives from the Health Care Agency's Mental Health Services division, the Telecare Corporation, the Probation Department, the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender.

Health Care Agency has contracted with Telecare to provide a variety of services to participants, including mental health and psychiatric services, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, residential treatment, family counseling, and peer mentoring. In addition to these services, program participants are also provided with access to medical services, employment counseling, job training and placement, and assistance with obtaining government disability benefits and housing.

At the end of 2012, **89 participants** were active in the WIT Court program.

Mental Health Courts, continued

Assisted Intervention Court

Assisted Intervention Court began in 2011 as a program for some misdemeanor offenders who have mental health problems which are so serious that ultimately the offender will likely be determined to be incompetent to stand trial. Pending that determination, however, many of these defendants will languish in custody for weeks or months without receiving any treatment for their mental illness. Instead, through the Assisted Intervention Court, potential participants are identified for evaluation by partnering agency personnel and, if accepted into the program, are afforded immediate mental health treatment through Health Care Agency and a subcontracted mental health services provider.

The program has a format that is similar to the other treatment court programs offered at the Community Court. The program lasts for a minimum of eighteen months, during which time the participant may be provided residential treatment, if appropriate. Assisted Intervention Court is funded through Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, and has a capacity of 25 participants. At the end of 2012, **19** participants were active in the program.

Mental Health Courts						
2012 Admissions by Mental Health Disorder						
	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	Assisted Intervention Court	total	percent
admissions	21	21	66	9	117	100%
Bi-Polar Disorder	5	6	19	2	32	27%
Schizophrenia	6	3	16	3	28	24%
Major Depressive Disorder	1	4	1	0	6	5%
Schizoaffective Disorder	3	3	8	1	15	13%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	1	0	1	0	2	2%
Mood Disorder NOS	5	1	12	0	18	15%
Psychiatric Disorder NOS	0	4	9	3	16	14%

“Before joining the program, I was unstable and my life was in chaos. I was in so much pain I didn’t care what happened to me. ... Now I look forward to each day.”

from a participant’s 2012 phase advancement speech

Mental Health Courts — Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of the mental health court programs is the low rate of recidivism, or re-arrest, for graduates of the programs. In determining the rate of recidivism, the arrest records of all program graduates are reviewed each year after their graduation, and any arrest since graduation is noted. As shown in the chart below, the overall rate of re-arrest for any offense for mental health program graduates is **29.4%**.

Mental Health Courts					
Recidivism Data for Participants					
	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total	percent
total graduates as of 12/31/2012	91	28	61	180	100%
re-arrested, any charge	29	7	17	53	29.4%
% re-arrested, any charge	31.8%	25%	27.9%		
convicted, any charge	23	5	16	44	24.4%
re-arrested, substance abuse	24	2	10	36	20%
% re-arrested, substance abuse	26.4%	7.1%	16.4%	20%	

Significant Cost Savings

Mental health court programs provide significant savings to the County because they reduce 911 calls and other law enforcement contacts, arrests, hospitalizations, involuntary commitments, trials, and incarcerations. To determine just one of these — jail and prison bed savings — the total number of jail or prison days that were stayed for program graduates is counted, and any incarceration days that resulted from in-program sanctions are subtracted. Because, following AB 109 realignment, both jail and prison time would be served in the County jail, the cost for both jail and prison bed days is calculated at \$116.21 per day, which is an average of the 2010 costs at the five Orange County jail facilities.

In 2012, the mental health court programs **saved 4,960 jail and prison bed days**, resulting in a **cost savings of \$576,402**. Since inception, the mental health court programs are estimated to have saved more than of **\$6,730,000** in jail and prison bed costs.

Other Program Benefits

Community service hours are an essential component of the mental health courts. Community service is utilized as both a sanction when participants are not in compliance with the program and as a productive use of time for those participants who are not working or going to school. During 2012, participants performed a remarkable **17,043 hours of community service**.

Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information

2012 Admissions

		Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total	percent
admissions		21	21	66	108	100%
sex	female	9	6	24	39	36%
	male	12	15	42	69	64%
age	18 - 21 years	1	3	5	9	8%
	22 - 30 years	5	9	27	41	38%
	31 - 40 years	5	4	12	21	19%
	41 - 50 years	7	3	13	23	21%
	51 - 60 years	1	0	9	10	9%
	over 60 years	0	2	0	2	2%
race / ethnicity	African-American	1	0	5	6	5%
	Asian	1	0	1	2	2%
	Caucasian	14	12	47	73	68%
	Hispanic	3	8	12	23	21%
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0%
	other	0	1	1	2	2%
education	needs HS / GED	1	5	27	33	31%
	has HS / GED	9	8	27	79	73%
	some college	5	6	10	21	19%
	college degree	4	2	2	8	7%
marital status	married	4	1	2	7	6%
	separated	3	3	10	16	15%
	divorced	1	4	11	15	14%
	single	13	13	43	69	64%
parental status	with minor children	5	3	14	22	20%
employment	employed	2	3	1	6	5%
	unemployed	19	18	65	102	95%
primary drug	alcohol	4	3	13	20	19%
	cocaine	2	1	2	5	5%
	heroin	0	2	9	11	10%
	marijuana	3	7	4	14	13%
	methamphetamine	8	5	33	46	43%
	opiates	0	1	4	5	5%
	prescription drugs	2	0	0	2	2%
	other	0	2	1	3	3%

Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information						
2012 Terminations						
		Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total	percent
terminations		10	13	38	61	100%
sex	female	5	7	18	30	49%
	male	5	6	20	31	51%
age	18 - 21 years	2	1	4	7	11%
	22 - 30 years	2	7	17	26	43%
	31 - 40 years	3	2	10	15	25%
	41 - 50 years	3	3	2	8	13%
	51 - 60 years	0	0	5	5	8%
	over 60 years	0	0	0	0	0%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	0	3	3	5%
	Asian	0	0	0	0	0%
	Caucasian	7	10	28	38	62%
	Hispanic	3	2	6	11	18%
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0%
	other	0	1	1	2	3%
education	needs HS / GED	4	4	14	22	36%
	has HS / GED	2	7	18	27	44%
	some college	4	2	6	12	20%
	college degree	0	0	0	0	0%
marital status	married	0	0	3	3	5%
	separated	1	1	2	4	7%
	divorced	3	2	6	11	18%
	single	6	10	27	43	70%
	widowed	0	0	0	0	0%
parental status	with minor children	3	3	10	16	26%
employment	employed	3	1	0	4	7%
	unemployed	7	12	38	57	93%
primary drug	alcohol	0	0	3	3	5%
	cocaine	0	0	5	5	8%
	heroin	3	3	7	13	21%
	marijuana	3	0	3	6	10%
	methamphetamine	4	10	18	32	52%
	opiates	0	0	1	1	2%
	prescription drugs	0	0	0	0	0%
	other	0	0	1	1	2%

Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information						
2012 Graduations						
		Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total	percent
graduations		15	5	9	29	100%
gender	female	9	4	8	21	72%
	male	6	1	1	8	28%
age	18 - 21 years	2	1	1	4	14%
	22 - 30 years	3	0	0	3	10%
	31 - 40 years	6	2	3	11	38%
	41 - 50 years	3	2	4	9	31%
	51 - 60 years	1	0	1	2	7%
	over 60 years	0	0	0	0	0%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	0	1	1	3%
	Asian	0	0	0	0	0%
	Caucasian	14	4	6	24	83%
	Hispanic	1	0	1	2	7%
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0%
	other	0	1	1	2	7%
education (at admission)	needs HS / GED	2	1	2	5	17%
	has HS / GED	5	1	3	9	31%
	some college	7	3	2	12	41%
	college degree	1	0	2	3	10%
marital status	married	2	1	0	3	10%
	separated	2	0	1	3	10%
	divorced	4	2	1	7	24%
	single	6	2	6	14	48%
	widowed	1	0	1	2	7%
parental status	with minor children	5	1	3	9	31%
employment (at admission)	employed	4	1	0	5	17%
	unemployed	11	4	9	24	83 %

"I finally feel for once there is hope."

from a participant's 2012 graduation speech

Mental Health Courts Awarded \$200,000 Grant

In 2012, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded a grant in the amount of \$200,000 over two years to provide residential substance abuse treatment to participants in two of the County's mental health court programs, Opportunity Court and Recovery Court. Research has shown that program participants who suffer from both mental illness and drug addiction will respond better to mental health treatment if their substance abuse problems are addressed in a highly-structured environment, such as a residential treatment facility.

The BJA grant will fund this treatment for participants who are not eligible for residential placement under either the WIT Court program, which requires that the participant be at risk of homelessness, or the County's Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), which requires the participant to have had at least two psychiatric hospitalizations within the past year. The treatment will be offered by licensed community providers, contracted through Health Care Agency.

South Korean Delegation Visits Community Court

On June 19, a delegation from the legal department of the Gyeonggi Provincial Government, representing the most populous province in South Korea, visited the Community Court to learn about Orange County's therapeutic treatment alternatives to incarceration and to observe a session of the Opportunity Court, one of the mental health court programs that is convened there. Collaborative or problem-solving courts have not yet been established in South Korea; and during their visit, the guests were told about the concept of treatment courts, learned of their cost-saving results, and, while seeing one of the programs in action, were deeply moved to hear firsthand about the effects of one of the programs on the life of a participant and his family.

The participants in Opportunity Court are struggling to overcome severe mental health challenges, as well as the serious substance abuse issues which may result from the self-medication of their mental illness. Recovery is often helped through the rebuilding of damaged family ties. During his progress review in court, one participant recounted that over the weekend he had asked his father what he would like for Father's Day; to which his grateful father had replied that having his son clean and sober was the best present he could ever receive.



In their own words — from the 2012 phase advancement speeches of several mental health court participants

"My life has changed in ways I could never have imagined."

"I have learned that I should not be afraid of taking my medications."

"I have a target date to finish college."

"I don't hear voices anymore."

CHAPTER 4

Combat Veterans Court

Combat Veterans Court was established in November 2008 to serve combat veterans with mental health issues who have become involved with the criminal justice system. This groundbreaking program — the first to be established in California, and the second in the nation — embodies an approach that has been encouraged by an amendment to Penal Code section 1170.9, which now says that if a person convicted of a criminal offense is a military veteran and can show that he or she is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, sexual trauma or other psychological problems, the court may order that person into a treatment program instead of jail or prison.

The program, which is held at the Community Court, has attracted national attention as an innovative and effective way to help combat veterans overcome the issues that impede their full re-integration into society, while protecting public safety and reducing the costs associated with recidivism. The program has been designated as a Mentor Court by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

A full-time case manager, funded by a grant obtained by the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, and a half-time Deputy Probation Officer, funded by the County, guide participants through a phased program that includes mental health counseling, self-help meetings, weekly meetings with a care coordinator and a Probation Officer, the development of a life plan, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, and regular court-review hearings.

The VA Long Beach Healthcare System also provides residential and outpatient treatment for seriously addicted substance abusers, and handles other health-related issues. Participants are assisted in their recovery and re-entry into society by volunteer mentors, who have themselves experienced combat. New partnerships have been formed with other service providers to offer additional support to veterans in the program.

On May 1, a Combat Veterans Court graduation marked the start of the *All Rise America! National Motorcycle Relay for Recovery*, through which a ceremonial gavel was handed off at 24 treatment court graduations and other court events over a course of more than 3,200 miles, from coast to coast, finishing on May 24 in Washington DC. On July 24, one-hundred twenty judicial and administrative personnel from across the country visited Combat Veterans Court in order to learn best practices in the creation and operation of these vital programs.

During the year, **16** participants graduated, bringing the total since inception to **34** graduates. At the end of 2012, **39** participants were active in the program.



Combat Veterans Court — Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Combat Veterans Court is the rate of recidivism, or re-arrest, for graduates of the program. In determining the rate of recidivism, the arrest records of all program graduates are reviewed each year after their graduation, and any arrest since graduation is noted. Of the **34** participants who have graduated since the inception of the program, **only 2 have been re-arrested**.

Significant Cost Savings

Combat Veterans Court provides significant savings to the County because of the avoided costs of incarcerating the defendants. Following AB 109 realignment, both jail and prison time would be served in the County jail; so, this year the cost of both jail and prison bed days is calculated at \$116.21 per day, which is an average of the 2010 costs at the five County jail facilities.

The calculation of the jail and prison bed cost savings is made only for program graduates, and any incarceration days that result from in-program sanctions are subtracted from the total number of jail or prison days that were stayed as a result of the alternative sentence. During 2012, the Combat Veterans Court program **saved 5,773 jail and prison bed days**, which resulted in a **cost savings of \$670,880**. Since inception, the program has saved **8,357** jail and prison days, for a cost savings of **\$988,485**.

Benefits to Society

After the war in Vietnam, U.S. combat veterans returned home to an indifferent, if not hostile, reception. During the years which followed, our society as a whole seemed to turn its back on the returning veterans, and to ignore the terrible psychological damage that a large number had suffered as a result of their combat experience.

In those years, many addicted veterans found themselves on the wrong side of the “war against drugs”. Mentally ill veterans often ended up in jail, and then were released untreated to a life on the streets. Homeless veterans found themselves reviled as an unpleasant nuisance. Incarceration, homelessness, and exile from society were the coin with which these deeply troubled soldiers were repaid for their service.

When combat veterans — steeped in violence and stress — become involved in the criminal justice system and are sent to jail or to prison, it is nearly certain that, upon their release, their withdrawal, their repressed anger, and their alienation will have gotten worse, not better.

Through the Combat Veterans Court, we can help these veterans to reclaim their lives, and to repair the collateral damage to their families caused by their PTSD. Through compassion, we can make our communities safer; and our society can be proud, rather than ashamed, of the way it treats those who have sacrificed so much for us.

COMBAT VETERANS COURT - Demographic Information

2012 Program Totals

		admissions	percent	terminations	percent	graduations	percent
total		22	100%	12	100%	16	100%
gender	female	2	9%	1	8%	0	0%
	male	20	91%	11	92%	16	100%
age	18 - 21 years	1	4%	1	8%	1	6%
	22 - 30 years	14	64%	8	67%	9	56%
	31 - 40 years	3	14%	3	25%	1	6%
	41 - 50 years	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%
	51 - 60 years	1	4%	0	0%	3	19%
	over 60 years	3	14%	0	0%	1	6%
race / ethnicity	African-American	2	9%	0	0%	1	6%
	Asian	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
	Caucasian	11	50%	10	83%	11	69%
	Hispanic	8	36%	2	17%	4	25%
	Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
education (at admission)	needs HS / GED	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	has HS / GED	10	45%	5	42%	8	50%
	some college	7	32%	6	50%	6	38%
	college degree	1	4%	0	0%	2	13%
	no information	4	18%	1	8%	0	0%
marital status	married	7	32%	4	33%	4	25%
	separated	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
	divorced	3	14%	3	25%	3	19%
	single	7	32%	4	33%	9	56%
	no information	4	18%	1	8%	0	0%
parental status	with minor children	5	23%	2	17%	3	19%
employment	employed	4	18%	3	25%	4	25%
	unemployed	14	63%	8	67%	11	69%
	unknown	4	18%	1	8%	1	6%
primary drug	alcohol	12	55%	5	42%	10	63%
	cocaine	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
	heroin	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%
	marijuana	1	4%	1	8%	1	6%
	methamphetamine	1	4%	3	25%	2	13%
	opiates	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%
	prescription drugs	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%
	other	7	32%	1	8%	2	13%

Documentary Film, Videos Feature Combat Veterans Court

Orange County's Combat Veterans Court is featured in *Other Than Honorable*, part of the documentary series, *In Their Boots*, about the impact of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the lives of U.S. service personnel. The 46-minute film depicts the challenges faced by returning combat veterans who become involved in the criminal justice system, and the therapeutic alternative to incarceration that is offered by the Combat Veterans Court. It can be viewed at: <http://www.intheirboots.com/itb/shows/special-presentations/other-than-honorable.html> .

Combat Veterans Court is also featured in videos by CNN and the California Judicial Council, which can be viewed on the Internet at www.youtube.com by searching with "Second Chance for Veterans", and "Kleps Award: Orange County's Combat Veterans Court", respectively.



In their own words — from the 2012 phase advancement speeches
of Combat Veterans Court participants

"When I got back from Iraq, I had a hard time adjusting. I was emotionally numb. I didn't care about my family. I didn't care about myself. I found life to be meaningless. I was filled with hate and anger."



"I did not have the tools to deal with PTSD, traumatic brain injury and an amputation. Instead of asking for help, I chose a slow suicide of drugs and alcohol."



"I was like a person on their deathbed, waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. This program has given me that, a life-saving transplant, only it wasn't an organ that you gave me. You have given me a new outlook on life, a different way to live."



"My hyper-vigilance is under control and I'm no longer 'patrolling my perimeter'. I'm not treating strangers as if they want to kill me. I no longer see a need to constantly have a weapon near me."



"It is with pride and confidence that I stand here today knowing I have done and will continue to do everything I can do to let the demons of my past die alone."



"I cannot express with words my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to become the man I am today, and forever influencing the man I shall become tomorrow."



CHAPTER 5

Homeless Outreach Court

Homeless Outreach Court was started in 2003 as a way to address the outstanding infractions and low-level misdemeanors of homeless people, while connecting them to a wide range of supportive services. During the year, this innovative program was held at three sites in the County – in Tustin, at the Orange County Rescue Mission, and in Santa Ana at the Mental Health Association of Orange County’s homeless shelter and at the Community Court.

The program provides a compassionate response to the fact that the homeless participants, many of whom suffer from chronic mental illness, may receive infractions simply because they are homeless — with the ironic result that such charges may hinder their efforts to obtain the government disability assistance that could aid in their rehabilitation. Instead of the usual court sanctions of fines and custody, program participants receive credit for accessing appropriate physical and mental health care; for attending alcohol or drug-dependency recovery meetings; for engaging in community service activities; for attending classes in life skills, computer skills, and literacy; and for becoming employed.

Homeless Outreach Court is an unfunded collaboration of the Court, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the Orange County Department of Housing and Community Services, the Health Care Agency, the Veterans Administration, the Orange County Legal Aid Society, local law enforcement agencies, and a variety of homeless services providers. The Public Defender has assumed the primary responsibility for the task of managing the very large caseload — which at the end of the year numbered **996 participants**.

In 2012, **402** people completed the program, with more than **3,200 hours of community service**. Since the inception of Homeless Outreach Court, **1,722** people have completed the program and have been helped to access the tools they need to regain their self-sufficiency.



Humanitarian of the Year Award



Renato Izquieta, Esq., second from right, was honored for his work on behalf of the clients of the Homeless Outreach Court. (from left: Judge Wendy Lindley, Assistant Presiding Judge Glenda Sanders, OC Legal Aid Executive Director Robert Cohen, Mr. Izquieta, State Senator Lou Correa)

CHAPTER 6

Dependency Drug Court

Located at the Lamoreaux Justice Center, Dependency Drug Court is a family reunification program designed to address the issues of parents whose children have been removed from the home by the County because of the parents' abuse of drugs or alcohol. Participants who qualify for acceptance into this program must comply with the specific requirements of each program phase, which include frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, individual and group counseling, regular court appearances, and attendance in perinatal or parenting classes.

The Dependency Drug Court program is a collaborative effort that includes the Social Services Agency, the Health Care Agency, the Orange County Counsel, the office of the Public Defender, the parents' retained legal counsel, and the Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme, which has been retained by the County to provide legal representation for the children.

Funding for Dependency Drug Court comes from several sources. The Orange County Board of Supervisors approves annual funding for the County agencies which allocate personnel and services that are essential to the success of the program. Additional funding for the program, which formerly was obtained through the Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation Act, is now allocated to the County directly from the State, and administered by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

From the inception of the program in 2005 through the end of 2010, each of the six judicial officers assigned to hear dependency matters also presided over a Dependency Drug Court calendar. Beginning in 2011, the Dependency Drug Court calendars were combined, and all are now heard in one courtroom, with Hon. Richard Lee presiding. In late 2012, pursuant to the agreement of the partnering agencies, the Dependency Drug Court program was modified so as to place an even greater emphasis on the permanency of the reunification. The format of the program was revamped so that, rather than working toward the goal of "graduation", success is achieved by progressing through a series of modules – including a maintenance module, in which aftercare is provided through the date of case closure.

In 2012, there were **34** new admissions to the program. During the year, **9 parents** graduated from the program, **105 children** received services, and **20 children** were reunified with their parents — who had achieved sobriety and willingly undertaken the responsibility of providing a safe and nurturing home for their family.



Dependency Drug Court Judicial Officers 2005-2012

Hon. Gary Bischoff
Hon. Donna Crandall
Hon. John Gastelum
Hon. Dennis Keough
Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood

Hon. Ronald Kreber
Hon. Gary Vincent
Hon. Caryl Lee
Hon. Douglas Hatchimonji
Hon. Richard Lee

Hon. Jane Shade
Hon. Maria Hernandez
Hon. Salvador Sarmiento
Hon. Cheryl Leininger
Hon. James Marion

Dependency Drug Court — Results and Benefits

Cost Savings from Early Reunification

During 2012, **20 children** were reunified with parents who had graduated from the program — now clean, sober, and committed to raising their children in a safe and secure environment.

A study updated in 2010 for the Social Services Agency* found that families in the Dependency Drug Court program reunified an average of **143 days earlier** than those who did not participate in the program. Early family reunification translates directly into a cost savings to the County because of the avoided costs of out-of-home placement. The total annual savings to the County for 2012 is estimated to be **\$220,000**.

Since the inception of the Dependency Drug Court program, **453** children have been reunified with their parents significantly earlier than would otherwise have been the case. It is estimated that the savings to the County in the costs of out-of-home placement since the inception of the program has amounted to more than **\$6,580,000**.

Increased and More Stable Reunification

Graduation from Dependency Drug Court is correlated with a high rate of family reunification. Since the inception of the program, **96.7%** of the children whose mothers or fathers graduated from Dependency Drug Court were **returned to their homes**, compared with **64%** of the children whose parents started but did not complete the program.

In addition, the sustainability of reunification is greater among parents who have graduated from Dependency Drug Court as compared to parents who did not complete the program. Since the inception of the program, of the children of parents who graduated from Dependency Drug Court, **only 9.8% re-entered into foster care**, compared with **22.5%** of the children whose parents did not complete the program.

Drug-Free Babies

For parents struggling to rebuild their lives and families, the birth of a drug-addicted baby would likely diminish their chances of success. Special perinatal training and program management are offered to Dependency Drug Court participants to ensure that pregnant mothers deliver drug-free babies — another important measure of the success of the program, both in human and in economic terms.

During 2012, **3 drug-free babies** were born to women during their participation in Dependency Drug Court.

* Orange County Dependency Drug Court Summary Report; Robin O'Neil, Ph.D., April 2005 – December, 2010; prepared for the Orange County Social Services Agency (at p.25).

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT - Demographic Information			
2012 Admissions			
total		34	100%
gender	female	28	82%
	male	6	18%
age	18-21	8	24%
	22-30	15	44%
	31-40	10	29%
	41-50	1	3%
	51-60	0	0%
	61 and older	0	0%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	0%
	Asian	1	3%
	Caucasian	16	47%
	Hispanic	16	47%
	Native American	0	0%
	other	1	3%
education	no diploma or GED	10	29%
	HS diploma / GED	16	47%
	some college	8	24%
	college degree	0	0%
marital status	single	21	61%
	married	9	27%
	separated	0	0%
	divorced	3	9%
	widowed	1	3%
employment	employed	7	21%
	unemployed	27	79%
primary drug	alcohol	5	15%
	cocaine	0	0%
	heroin	6	18%
	marijuana	2	6%
	methamphetamine	20	59%
	prescription drugs	1	3%
	other	0	0%

CHAPTER 7

Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court, which is held at the Lamoreaux Justice Center in Orange, was established in 1998 to address the serious substance abuse issues of minors. The goal of the program is to support the youthful offender's commitment to sobriety by providing the treatment and supervision needed to promote abstinence from drug and alcohol abuse and to deter criminal behavior. The program is supported by grant funding obtained through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. During 2012, Hon. Maria Hernandez presided over the program.

The Juvenile Drug Court team includes representatives from the Court, Health Care Agency, the Probation Department, the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender, and any retained counsel. Minors participating in the program are required to attend frequent progress review hearings with the judicial officer; remain clean and sober; attend weekly self-help groups; participate in group, individual, and family counseling; attend skills-building classes and other educational activities; and follow the terms and conditions of probation.

This year, in an initiative arranged through the Probation Department, youth in Juvenile Drug Court were helped to prepare for college by three volunteer graduate students from the University of California, Irvine, who worked closely with the Juvenile Drug Court team to integrate the development of both the knowledge and the attitude necessary for the participants to succeed in college.

On February 3, program participants traveled to Fullerton College for a close-up look at life on campus. During the day, they attended six classes designed to acquaint them with a variety of subjects of potential interest. On April 21, the participants visited UCI for an open house, which included a tour of the campus and several different academic departments, as well as an introduction to various campus clubs and organizations. A tour of California State University, Fullerton was given on September 12, which included a discussion with a panel of students who answered questions about college and life on campus.

At the beginning of 2012, Juvenile Drug Court had **23** active participants, as well as nine for whom warrants had been issued. During the course of the year, **47** participants were admitted into the program, **19** participants were terminated or left the program (**7** without fault) and **17 graduated**. The graduates had typically started using drugs before their 14th birthday and most were using drugs several times a week. When they graduated, they had been clean and sober for at least two months, some for more than a year.

At the end of 2012, Juvenile Drug Court had **34** active participants. Since the inception of the program, a total of **556** participants have been admitted and **186** have graduated.



Juvenile Drug Court Judicial Officers 1998-2012

Hon. Ronald E. Owen
Hon. Robert E. Hutson

Hon. Donna Crandall
Hon. Maria Hernandez

Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood
Ref. Maureen Aplin

Juvenile Drug Court — Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Juvenile Drug Court is the reduction in the rate of recidivism, or re-arrest, for both the participants in the program and for the graduates of the program.

Despite having come into the program with an average of two prior arrests, and some with as many as six prior arrests, **only one** of the 2012 Juvenile Drug Court participants was arrested for a new law violation while in the program.

One hundred seventy graduates have had an entire year of follow-up since graduating from the Juvenile Drug Court program. Of these **170** graduates, **only eighteen (10%)** had a new referral to the Probation Department within one year of graduation. One hundred fifty-two graduates have been out of the program for at least two years; and of these **152** graduates, **only twenty (13%)** had a new referral to Probation within that time.

Significant Cost Savings

While participants are in the Juvenile Drug Court program, their time in custody is stayed and upon graduation the charges against them are dismissed. According to Orange County Probation's Fiscal Services Department, the average cost of housing a minor at one of the five Orange County juvenile correctional facilities is \$367.90 per day.

The **17** participants who graduated in 2012 had **2,193 days of custody stayed**, resulting in a **cost savings to the County of \$806,805**. The total cost savings to the County, since the inception of the Juvenile Drug Court program, amounts to nearly **\$6,590,000**.



In their own words — from the 2012 graduation speeches
of two Juvenile Drug Court participants

"In the past year, I have started to understand what drugs have done to me, and the disappointment I have caused myself and my family. Drug Court has helped me to stay clean and get my life together. ... Everyone wants to fit in, and be accepted by others. Drugs sometimes go hand and hand with acceptance, but it is not worth destroying your life and family."

"It's helped me so much and I wouldn't be at where I am today without going through this. And mom, I love you. You were there for me the whole time even when I was messing up. I know I've done a lot of horrible things to you but that's in the past and I wouldn't trade the relationship I have with you now for anything."

JUVENILE DRUG COURT - Demographic Information							
2012 Program Totals							
		admissions	percent	graduations	percent	terminations	percent
total		47	100%	17	100%	12	100%
gender	female	18	38%	7	41%	2	17%
	male	29	62%	10	59%	10	83%
age	13 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	14 years	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%
	15 years	6	13%	2	12%	2	17%
	16 years	14	30%	7	41%	8	67%
	17 years	26	55%	8	47%	2	17%
race / ethnicity	African-American	1	2%	1	6%	0	0%
	Asian	0	0%	1	6%	1	8%
	Caucasian	16	34%	7	41%	3	25%
	Hispanic	28	60%	7	41%	8	67%
	Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	2	4%	1	6%	0	0%
education at admission	attending high school	6	13%	3	18%	2	17%
	attending alternative HS	40	85%	14	82%	10	83%
	has diploma/GED	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%
	has some college	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
marital status	single	47	100%	17	100%	12	100%
	married	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
employment	employed	4	9%	0	0%	1	8%
	unemployed	43	91%	17	100%	11	92%
primary drug	alcohol	2	4%	2	12%	0	0%
	cocaine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	heroin	5	11%	2	12%	1	8%
	marijuana	30	64%	9	53%	8	67%
	methamphetamine	9	19%	4	24%	2	17%
	prescription drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	1	2%	0	0%	1	8%

CHAPTER 8

Truancy Court

Truancy Court, located at the Lamoreaux Justice Center, is the third and most intensive intervention level of the County's Truancy Response Program, which targets chronically truant youth* and their families. Established by Hon. Robert B. Hutson in 2001, the program has the goals of stabilizing school attendance in order to increase the chances of future academic success, reducing the number of youth who go on to commit crimes that result in the filing of formal petitions pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code §602, and educating families regarding the importance of education and engagement. Truancy Court is supported through funding received by the County pursuant to the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.

When a student is identified as truant by a participating school district, the student and the parents are given notice to attend a mandatory meeting with school officials that is conducted by a representative from the District Attorney's Office. If the truancy problem is not corrected in response to this school-level intervention, the school district forwards a truancy referral to the Probation Department. If the student and the parents do not cooperate with the Probation Department in addressing the truancy problem, or if the student is younger than 12 years old, the family is referred to Truancy Court.

Truancy Court involves students and their parents in a collaborative effort to resolve the attendance problem. Partners include the District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, the Department of Education, the Juvenile Court, the Public Defender, the Social Services Agency, the Health Care Agency, the community-based Parent Empowerment Program, and other support organizations. The students are monitored by the District Attorney and directed to attend school daily, and they must provide proof of attendance to the Court each week.

The Court will order the parents to attend the Parent Empowerment Program; and it may also refer the family for counseling services provided by the Health Care Agency and to the CalWorks program through the Social Services Agency. A Public Defender assists the family in accessing community resources and helps them to comply with the Court's orders.

Truancy Court participants remain active until the chronic truancy problem, and such other issues that have contributed to the problem, are remedied to the satisfaction of the Court. Participants may be under Court supervision for as little as two months, or for twelve months or more, unless the family moves out of the County or a subsequent criminal charge is filed.

Community Service Programs, Inc. (CSP) offers participants culturally competent mental health services – including clinical assessments; case management; individual, family and group counseling; crisis intervention; behavior modification plans; and referrals to community supports. During the year, a total of **71** Truancy Court participants and their families received these "wraparound" services.

During 2012, Truancy Court was initially under the direction of Hon. Debra Chuang and was thereafter led by Hon. Kim Menninger. A total of **200** truant youth were accepted into the program along with their parents, and **127 successfully completed** the program.

* As defined by California Education Code section 48260, a student is truant if, without a valid excuse, during one school year he or she is tardy or absent from school for more than any 30-minute period on three separate occasions, or is absent from school for three full days, or any combination thereof.

Truancy Court — Results and Benefits

Improved School Attendance

A key measure of the effectiveness of Truancy Court is the improvement in the student's school attendance. Of the 127 students who successfully completed Truancy Court during the year, **95% had an improved attendance rate**, and **67% had 90 or more consecutive days of perfect attendance**.

During the year, one student received a high school diploma, and one obtained a GED. Four students were referred to and graduated from the Sunburst Academy, a highly-structured school setting which also instills the values, skills, and self-discipline necessary to succeed. In 2012, the parents of **77** of the students in Truancy Court attended the Parent Empowerment Program.



Hon. Kim Menninger presides over Truancy Court

Although **65** participants were terminated from the Truancy Court program during the year, nearly one-third of their parents had attended classes in the Parent Empowerment Program, acquiring skills that can help them improve their children's chances for success.

Decreased Delinquency

Successful intervention to address chronic truancy also decreases the likelihood of subsequent criminal behavior. Of the **1,665** students who have successfully completed the Truancy Response Program since the inception of the program, **only 6.1%** were arrested for violating the law in the six months following their exit, **compared with 20.7%** of the **752** students who did not successfully complete the program.



Truancy Court Judicial Officers 2001-2012

Hon. Robert B. Hutson
Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood

Hon. Deborah Chuang
Hon. Kim Menninger

Ref. Maureen Aplin
Hon. Donna Crandall

CHAPTER 9

Dependency Teen Programs

Girls Court

One of two programs established by Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood for youth in the dependency system, Girls Court supports young women who have suffered trauma or abuse at some point in their lives. If unaddressed, the psychological effects of this abuse can put the girls at high risk of dropping out of school, using drugs, becoming homeless, and falling into the criminal justice system when they become adults. The program participants, many of whom are living in foster care group homes, receive appropriate treatment and counseling, and are helped to gain the skills and resources they need to build healthy relationships and to achieve stable, productive lives.

During 2012, the program was initially under the direction of Hon. Jane Shade, and thereafter was led by Hon. Kim Menninger. The Girls Court team includes representatives from the Court, the Social Services Agency, Health Care Agency, the Probation Department, Orange County Counsel, Public Defender, Juvenile Defenders, the Department of Education, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Orangewood Children’s Foundation, the Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme, and other appointed counsel. Funding for case management and many ancillary services is obtained from Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act.

Engagement, involvement, and participation are vital components of the program. The team members meet regularly with each girl to address challenges and to provide encouragement and support. In addition to frequent case reviews, the program includes a comprehensive assessment; joint case planning and management; educational and cultural activities; and linkage to role models and mentors. During the year, the participants increased their contacts with County social workers, nearly all received the services of a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and special education services were provided to those who qualified for them.

On August 16, participants in Girls Court attended Orange Coast College Day, where they toured the campus and sampled classes in a range of career fields — including travel and tourism, construction technology, culinary arts, medical technology, and digital media. They also met with a representative from the non-profit Guardian Scholars, which helps foster youth to achieve their higher education goals.

At the end of 2012, there were **44** participants in Girls Court.



“An investment now to stabilize the lives of these adolescent girls is a small cost compared to the financial burden that will be imposed if they remain in the justice or social welfare system.”

Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood (2010)

Girls Court — Results and Benefits

Increased Placement Stability

Because frequent changes of homes and schools can negatively impact a young girl's self-esteem, as well as her behavior and her ability to form positive relationships, one of the goals of Girls Court is to reduce the number of placement changes. Of the 44 participants who were active in the program at the end of the year, 35 (80%) had five or more placements prior to entry into the program, with 13 of those girls having had ten or more placements.

Since entry into Girls Court, **only 5** girls have had continued to have multiple placements; and of the girls who had ten or more placement changes, **8** girls have had **no** additional placements, and **5** girls have had **only one** change.

Fewer Runaway Incidents

Another measure of program success is the reduction in the frequency of AWOL, or runaway incidents, where a girl leaves her foster home without permission — often to live on the street or under the dubious influence of an older boyfriend. Of the 44 girls in Girls Court at the end of the year, **37** have **had no AWOL** behavior since they started the program.

Prior to entering Girls Court, 2 girls had a history of chronic AWOL behavior, with five or more runaway incidents. Since entering the program, one has had **no further AWOLs**, and one went AWOL a week after entry, but has **not run away since**.

School Success

The Girls Court participants develop new attitudes toward their education. Of the participants in public school, **70% remained in one school** during the year. Of the girls with a history of suspensions from school, **73% decreased their incidence of suspensions** from the year before. In addition, **none** of the participants were expelled from school, and **none** were referred to the Truancy Court program.

During the year, **70%** of the participants **improved their grade point average**, with the average GPA increasing from **1.98** to **2.27**. Of the girls taking the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), **73%** passed the English portion, and **65%** passed the Math portion of the exam.

Law-Abiding Behavior

The alternatives that are offered to Girls Court participants help to change the way they interact with the society in which they live. Although many of them have had encounters with law enforcement during their lives, of the girls who were active in Girls Court in 2012, **only one had a law violation** during the year.

GIRLS COURT			
Demographic Information for participants active as of 12-31-12			
		total	percent
admissions		44	100%
age	13 years	1	2%
	14 years	2	5%
	15 years	5	11%
	16 years	13	23%
	17 years	10	20%
	18 years	9	9%
	19 years	4	
race / ethnicity	African-American	2	5%
	Asian	2	5%
	Caucasian	7	15%
	Hispanic	31	70%
	other	2	5%
history of mental illness		32	73%
type of placement at admission	foster family agency certified home	8	18%
	foster family home	9	21%
	group home	10	23%
	guardian home	1	2%
	home trial visit	1	2%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	7	16%
	runaway	3	7%
	temporary shelter	4	9%
	unknown	1	2%

Dependency Teen Programs, continued

Boys Court

Boys Court was opened in 2010 at the Lamoreaux Justice Center to serve adolescent males in the dependency system. Most of these youth have had multiple foster care placements, and their unaddressed substance abuse, mental health, or other socialization problems have put them at high risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system as adults.

The voluntary program is under the guidance of Hon. Maria Hernandez, who works with a team of representatives from a variety of partnering agencies – including Orange County’s Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, the Department of Education, Probation Department, County Counsel, Public Defender, Juvenile Defenders, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Orangewood Children’s Foundation, and the Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme.

Boys Court participants have faced exceedingly challenging circumstances so far in their lives. At the time of their entry into foster care nearly all were victims of neglect, and close to half had been left by their parents without any provision of support. Many had also suffered from a more violent abuse — either physical, emotional, or sexual. For most of the boys, one or both of their parents are either incarcerated, deceased, or “whereabouts unknown”. At the time of their entry into the program, most of the boys had been diagnosed with mental illness; more than half had a history of substance abuse; and many had a record of delinquency.

During the year, almost all of the boys who were diagnosed with mental illness began or continued voluntarily to receive therapy for their mental health issues, and all of the boys with a history of substance abuse were receiving treatment for their substance abuse issues.

On May 21, youth participating in Boys Court and Juvenile Drug Court found inspiration from two guest speakers - a rising star in the world of hip hop and a mixed martial arts competitor, who each spoke of their challenges in becoming successful young adults. On August 16, participants in Boys Court attended Orange Coast College Day, where they sampled classes in a range of career fields - including travel and tourism, construction technology, culinary arts, medical technology, and digital media. They also met with a representative from the non-profit Guardian Scholars, which helps foster youth to achieve their higher education goals.

At the end of the year, there were **37** participants in Boys Court.



from a dependency teen program participant:

“Because of the predicament I was in I thought that I would never fulfill my hopes and dreams. ... It’s not about the mistakes you make. It’s what you learn from them. It’s not about the predicament you’re in. It’s what you make happen.”

Boys Court — Results and Benefits

Increased Placement Stability

Because frequent changes of homes and schools can negatively impact a boy's self-esteem, as well as his behavior and his ability to form positive relationships, one of the goals of Boys Court is to reduce the number of placement changes. Since their entry into the Boys Court program, **22** of the boys have had **no placement changes**.

Prior to entering the program, 28 of the boys had endured five or more placement changes, with 15 of these boys having had ten or more placements. Of these 28 boys, since their entry into the program only **6** have had multiple placements, while **8** have had only one additional placement, and **14** have had **no additional placements**.

Fewer Runaway Incidents

Another measure of program success is the reduction in the frequency of AWOL, or runaway incidents, where a boy leaves his foster home without permission. Nineteen of the boys in the program had a history of AWOL behavior prior to entering Boys Court, with 8 having had five or more AWOL incidents. Since entering the program, **only 9** of these boys have had a runaway incident.

Of the eight boys who had a history of five or more runaway incidents, **4** have had **no AWOL** behavior since starting Boys Court; and while **4** boys ran away once after they entered the program, they have **not been AWOL since**.

School Success

The Boys Court participants, whose education level at the time of entry ranged from 8th through 12th grade, are developing new attitudes toward their education. Of the participants in public school, there was a **56% reduction** in the number of boys suspended, and there was a **70% reduction** in total suspension days from the year before.

More than half of the participants **increased their grade point average** from the year before, with average GPA increasing from **1.58 to 2.11**. Of the boys who took the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), **78%** passed the Math portion and **82%** passed the English portion of the exam.



from a dependency teen program participant:

"You know you'll make it in life if you simply stay true,
because you're a strong individual and everyone sees it in you."

BOYS COURT			
Demographic Information for participants active as of 12-31-12			
		total	percent
admissions		37	100%
age	12 years	1	3%
	13 years	1	3%
	14 years	3	8%
	15 years	3	8%
	16 years	7	19%
	17 years	9	24%
	18 years	7	19%
	19 years	6	16%
race / ethnicity	Asian	1	3%
	Caucasian	10	27%
	Hispanic	26	70%
history of mental illness		30	81%
type of placement at admission	foster family agency certified home	1	3%
	foster family home	3	8%
	group home	16	43%
	hospital	1	3%
	home trial visit	1	3%
	Orangewood Children's Home	6	16%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	4	11%
	runaway	2	5%
	temporary shelter	1	3%
	unknown	2	5%

CHAPTER 10 Domestic Violence Outreach

Heroes and Healthy Families

The Heroes and Healthy Families Conference is an all-day event for US military service personnel that is designed to increase their knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of family violence, post-traumatic stress, and risk-taking behaviors. Created through a collaboration of the Orange County Superior Court, the non-profit Family Violence Project, and MCCS Marine and Family Services, the conference is presently supported by the volunteer efforts of Court staff.

Originally developed for presentation at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, the program has proven to be so effective that it has been expanded at the request of senior Marine Corps leadership and MCCS Marine and Family Services to reach an even wider audience. In 2012, in addition to a presentation at Camp Pendleton on October 25, the conference was held for more than **1,000** active duty Marines and Sailors at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on September 12, and was presented for the third consecutive year to more than **1,000** military personnel at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, on June 6-7.

Speakers and special guests at the event include Hon. Pamela Iles (ret.), as well as representatives from Headquarters Marine Corps and Marine Forces Reserve. Since 2004, more than **14,000** military personnel at ten different military installations have attended the Heroes and Healthy Families Conference.



Thank you for your support
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